



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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**MAN ARRESTED AT MANCHESTER AIRPORT
FOR INTERFERING WITH FLIGHT ATTENDANTS**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, FBI Special Agent in Charge of the Boston Field Office Kenneth W. Kaiser, Transportation Security Administration Federal Security Director Raymond Carolan, and Rockingham County Sheriff Daniel Linehan, report that 40-year-old Roger Dare Slaalien, Jr., of Longwood, Florida was arrested last night at the Manchester Airport for the federal crime of interfering with flight attendants.

Slaalien was charged with assaulting a Southwest Airlines flight attendant and disregarding her instructions to stop his disruptive conduct on the aircraft during a flight from Orlando, Florida to Manchester. A criminal complaint filed against Slaalien today in federal court in Concord alleges that on August 18, 2004, while he was a passenger on Southwest Airlines flight # 2375 he assaulted and intimidated a flight attendant by grabbing her buttocks, touching her leg in an offensive manner, grabbing her leg, and disregarding her instructions to cease his disruptive conduct, which included harassing two children who were passengers on the flight.

No passengers or flight crew member were injured in the incident. Slaalien was arrested by FBI agents, TSA agents, and Rockingham County Sheriff's Deputies at the Manchester Airport last night upon the plane's arrival.

If convicted, Slaalien faces a maximum prison term of 20 years and a fine of \$250,000. Slaalien was arraigned this afternoon at the Federal Courthouse in Concord. He was released on personal recognizance bail. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for September 20, 2004.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mark S. Zuckerman.

A criminal complaint is only an allegation and not proof of criminal conduct. As in all criminal cases, the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.